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LIMERICK LOOKS ON INVASION AS A JOKE

However, There Is Still Danger of Tragedy; Decisive Step Near.

BOTH SIDES KEEP CALM

British Maintain Severe Aloofness While Preparing for Their Evacuation.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1922, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. LIMERICK, March 8.—Unless the anti-treaty rebels of the Irish Republican army make some aggressive move their seizure of Limerick is likely to be recorded in history as an incident parallel to the maneuver of the famous French King who marched his army up a hill and then marched it down again. In fact the men of Limerick themselves seem inclined to treat the invasion of their city as a joke.

Peace efforts thus far have failed, but there are no war efforts. It is generally believed that a decisive step will be taken to-morrow, though the nature of it is unknown. If the invasion subsides quietly it will have been a comedy, but the fact cannot be overlooked that the stage was set for a tragedy.

The anti-treatyites, as the irregular troops are called, for both claim to be Republicans, having commandeered the principal hotels and about 400 quiet, unassuming country lads who are doing nothing all day long but standing drowsily in the corridors waiting to be shot at to next. At each entrance stand a couple of sentries with rifles with fixed bayonets and revolvers, while bulging ammunition pouches are suspended from their shoulders. All of them obviously are the type of youths who are ready to follow some leaders. More of them arrived to-night.

The regular troops mostly are well fitted out, equipped with rifles, and some of them have had military training. They also have an armored car, which occasionally is seen running through the streets.

Their strength is believed now to be in the neighborhood of 1,000, with more coming and still more available. The leaders of the rival forces apparently are on perfectly good terms. The Lord Mayor, wishing to end the ridiculous situation, had both staffs to lunch to-day. Commandant Brennan, head of the regular troops, told THE NEW YORK HERALD correspondent that they had discussed the situation but were unable to see a way out.

While no future meetings have been arranged they can easily be called when desired, Brennan says, because the heads meet each other frequently in the theaters and restaurants.

The Lord Mayor, however, seems to have another scheme because immediately after the lunch he started for Dublin and expects to return to-morrow. It is thought possible that he may have come to meet De Valera because he is a staunch Republican supporter.

The first move must come from the irregulars, as the regulars positively state they will not take any aggressive action unless necessary for self-defense. At present neither side is interfering with the other, neither seeks trouble and both are keeping calm.

The reason for the attempt made upon Limerick by the irregulars is vague. It is chiefly explained as having been due to a desire to give evidence of sympathy and support to the Middle Limerick brigade leaders who recently issued a manifesto reiterating their adherence to the republic. The insurgents are composed of a small number of local boys with small groups from various other Irish Republican army units, which in most cases have followed some one of their leaders here owing to the dissatisfaction over the Free State treaty.

Apart from this desire to show sympathy for the cause, the only bone of contention seems to be the control of the castle. The irregulars declare that it should be given to them, but the regulars refuse, and as it is almost impossible for the irregulars to take it the matter ends there. The townsmen go about their business unconcerned.

IRELAND HAS CHANCE TO REVIVE FISHERIES AS A GREAT INDUSTRY

Adjacent Waters Finest Grounds in World, Where Shoals of Mackerel, Herring and Cod Swarm, but Lack of Gear and Poverty Have Kept Fishermen From Deep Sea.

This is the fourth of a series of articles on the Ireland of to-day and it deals with her fisheries, food products and her textile wealth.

Special Correspondence to THE NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1922, by THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau, Dublin, Feb. 28. There is an ancient industry in Ireland that is due for a revival—the sea fisheries. Their story, running back into dim tradition as do so many things in Ireland, is shot with the glamour of sea romance, of hard men at hard tasks in hard weather; of political circumstances working against them; of their steadily losing fight, until now the industry has fallen to its lowest ebb.

Despite this the waters around Ireland are among the finest fishing grounds of the world, and the fleets of other nations still ply there, while Irish fishermen through the paucity of their gear and the poverty of their establishments are obliged to pother along inshore, taking fish only when they can reach them, instead of pursuing the great shoals of mackerel and herring and cod and all the deep sea fish that swarm through these waters warmed by the Gulf Stream and fed by the living organisms which the tropic waters of the great stream carry.

Proceeding on the theory that neither the fish nor the fishermen are lacking to make the Irish fishing trade important, the Commission of Inquiry has recommended a scheme whereby the state will provide loans to enable fishermen to buy adequate boats and gear, whereby adequate harbors will be built and maintained with proper curing and shipping facilities, and a cooperative market scheme whereby the fish will be got to the consumer much as butter is now handled by the cooperative dairies. The scheme even includes the provision of motor transport for retail sale through the inland towns of Ireland itself.

In the fishermen the Sinn Fein Government sees the genesis of an Irish navy. Furthermore it is the theory of the proponents of this scheme that the fishermen, like the man o'war, should be protected and insured as far as may be by the state from the extra hazardous nature of his calling.

Taught Scotch to Fish.

It is contended that the Irish really taught the Scotch the fishing industry. Records are cited to show that in 1754 Irish experts were brought to Uist to teach the manufacture of kelp and that in 1765, when eight Irish wherries of twenty-five tons burden and eight men apiece were hired by Shetland merchants, the Scotch fishermen objected because the Irish crews, by starting earlier in the season, going further to sea and fishing "in a more dexterous manner," made records which the Scotch could not equal. Five hundred Shetland boats with 2,500 men caught only 11,774 quintals of fish, while the sixty-four Irishmen with eight boats caught 1,058.

It was Irish fishermen of this time, according to the contemporary British reports, who really founded the Newfoundland fisheries.

Nevertheless, from the time of the Union, the Irish fisheries began steadily to decline. The decline had already set in before this time, but with the granting of Government bounties in the hands of Westminster the Irish bounties were steadily cut, while the Scotch and English bounties were increased and the trade fell from bad to worse. It had fallen so low in 1849 that the Irish fisheries were able to do little or nothing to alleviate the horrors of the great potato famine of that year.

It is now proposed that a department of fisheries should investigate the plans for the most modern and efficient type of fishing craft, steam and motor, and provide funds and general information out of which adequate Irish fleets may be equipped. The need of speedy action may be seen when it is noted that to-day British trawlers drag the waters of the Irish Sea plateau, bring their fish

tion of the animal industry's few imports to balance exports and the tables for the textile industry each considered in itself.

Animal Industry in Ireland's Trade.

Commodity.	Export.	Import.
Butter.....	4,001,613	597,127
All cattle, sheep, hogs & above.....	31,096,132	345,072
Eggs.....	11,478,381	2,385,088
Wool.....	1,399,080	405,160
Hides, skins, leather.....	11,963,405	18,587,916
Bacon.....	1,080,990	1,444,740
Poultry.....	4,046,334	3,225,247
Foodstuffs.....	1,908,389	4,040,636
Totals.....	63,271,525	41,537,613

Animal industry's favorable balance of trade, \$1,913,912.

Textile Industry in Ireland's Trade.

Commodity.	Export.	Import.
Wool yarn.....	412,059	424,045
New cotton.....	134,199	3,298,099
Cotton goods.....	11,963,405	18,587,916
Flax.....	511,870	3,798,432
Linen yarn.....	8,151,868	513,777
Linen goods.....	1,370,963	380,585
Carpet, rug, tapestry and dry goods.....	2,618,256	6,350,585
Woolen yarn, rope, cordage, bagging, canvas, etc.....	2,971,747
Roofing felt.....	233,867
Woolen goods.....	2,372,399
Totals.....	33,420,099	43,715,676

Textile industry's favorable balance of trade, \$17,704,423.

If an equation is to be struck between the agricultural south and the industrial north it may be urged that Belfast should be credited with her \$10,600,000 of ships built in 1919. But against that would have to be charged a very large proportion of Ireland's coal import of \$10,000,000 and much of the nine million unfavorable balance of trade in the metals and machinery account.

Belfast takes its flax and gets everything out of it it possibly can before the bulk of it is put on shipboard. Furthermore, it imports more flax, more linen yarn, more linen goods to manufacture in its own factories and mills and turn a penny on it, with Irish capital and Irish labor benefiting. Then it turns its textile mind to other fabrics and imports and manufactures and sells huge quantities of cotton and flax and hemp and their products. Its great shipbuilding industry is built sheer and alone on organizing, working and merchandizing ability, for it possesses not a single natural advantage, except a deep water bay not possessed by scores of other ports in Ireland.

Meat Imports.

Take the meat industry, on the other hand, and it is found that the vast majority of its product goes out distinctly in the raw. Instead of getting out of its cattle and pigs and sheep everything but the squeal it exports them almost as nature made them and pays British and Scotch workers to fatten and kill and dress them, to tan their hides, prepare their wool and manufacture their bristles.

Ireland imports twice as much fat, lard and tallow as she exports. She imports just as much hides, skins and leather as she exports, about a million and a half pounds worth. And to this is to be added \$5,380,000 boots and shoes imported, as against a mere \$150,000 exported. There is no way of telling how much of this material went out of Ireland on the hoof to be turned over to the profit of the British manufacturer, workman, wholesaler and their distributors in Ireland. Ireland imports almost two-thirds as much bacon as she sells, despite that Irish bacon might be thought to be a product unapproachable by any imported kind. That is true in quality, but not in price.

So it is that the south of Ireland needs just the sort of organizing and selling abilities that have made the north great if she is to go on with her dream of developing to support her normal increase in population. It is calculated that Ireland can hold from sixteen to twenty million souls before her agriculture becomes subject to the law of diminishing returns. But to do that she will have to be organized nationally, and organized from Cape Clear to Malin Head.

To-morrow's article on Ireland's future will deal with her imports and efforts to reduce their bulk.

Justice Holmes Spends 81st Birthday at Work

WASHINGTON, March 8.—Associate Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes of the Supreme Court to-day celebrated his eighty-first birthday by actively participating in the sessions of the court. He took his seat upon the bench of the highest court December 8, 1902, and in the history of the court only three members have reached a more advanced age—Chief Justice Taney and Associate Justices Duvall and Field.

Justice Duvall died at 92, nine years after he had retired from the bench, and Chief Justice Taney died at 87 while an active member. Justice Field was 83 at the time of his death, twenty-eight years after he had ceased active judicial duties.

PROFESSOR SMIDDY IRISH ENVOY HERE

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD. Copyright, 1922, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Dublin, March 8.

Timothy A. Smiddy, professor of economics at the University College of Cork, is being sent by the Dail Eireann to replace Harry C. Boland as envoy in Washington. It is believed that Prof. Smiddy will make his first task that of closing the issue of the second Dail loan, and arrange for the redemption of the two loans raised previously in America. He will have the aid of James O'Mara, former member of the Dail; Sean MacCaill of Dublin and Commandant Beaslai.

There is, perhaps, no man in Ireland so eminent in economic studies, or who enjoys a higher reputation than Prof. Smiddy. He is 46 years old and has been a scholar of distinction in Cork, London, Paris and Cologne, and has been a moving spirit in the south of Ireland, vigorously promoting the interests of higher education.

FREE STATE WINS IN COMMONS BY 293 TO 62

LONDON, March 8 (Associated Press).—The Irish Free State bill passed its third reading in the House of Commons to-day by a vote of 293 to 62, the minority about representing the "Die Hard" strength. The report stage was completed without any amendment, the only interesting point being the size of the Irish army. Winston Churchill, Secretary for the Colonies, explained that the army would probably be between 20,000 and 30,000 men, and if Ulster contracted out the quota of the Free State would be reduced proportionately.

On the motion for the third reading the "Die Hards," in the person of Ronald McNeill, made a final attack by moving rejection of the bill. He declared that the attitude of the Government was absurd, because with the British troops withdrawn and under the conditions prevailing an Irish republic would no sooner be proclaimed than it would be accepted by the British Government. Mr. Churchill warmly repudiated this.

"If we strip Ireland of her grievance and her power of exciting the sympathy

of the world and of the support she has received from America and the Dominions," he continued, "we could place Ireland in a position where if she broke the treaty she would be in the wrong and we should be in the right, and she would be absolutely isolated in the whole world."

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